

special privileges which they now enjoy, and which alone enable them to exist, should be immediately withdrawn. Corporations being the creatures of government should be subjected to such governmental regulations and control as will adequately protect the public. We demand the taxation of monopoly privileges, while they remain in private hands, to the extent of the value of privileges granted. We demand that Congress shall enact a general law uniformly regulating the power and duties of all incorporated companies doing inter-State business."

In Mr. Watson, as the Charlotte Observer remarks, "the Populists have doubtless nominated their ablest man." No resident of the South has made a finer reputation as a historian, and he is also a remarkably able lawyer. A man of intense convictions and the highest character, he commands the respect even of those who disagree with him. Rev. Dr. John E. White, of Atlanta, said to us some time ago that if Watson had been willing to smother his Populist sentiments, he would probably have become United States Senator from Georgia and a great political leader. His "Story of France," "Napoleon," and "Life and Times of Thomas Jefferson" are about the most notable pieces of serious literary work that have been done in the South these last ten years.

A POSTSCRIPT.

The Parker Letter to the Democratic Convention.

The foregoing review was written Saturday when the only business remaining before the Democratic Convention seemed to be that of naming a Vice-Presidential candidate. But in reality the most sensational feature of the Convention was yet to come. Late Saturday afternoon all St. Louis was a-buzz with excitement over the receipt of a telegram from Judge Parker declaring himself a gold standard man and that if this was not satisfactory to the Convention, he would decline the nomination. This declaration, offensive, of course, to the silver men, came like a thunderbolt from a clear sky, and for a time the party leaders were in the wildest state of confusion. There were not a few of the delegates who declared that Parker's nomination should be rescinded, and in the turmoil Senator Tillman raced about the hall swearing that Parker had insulted the Convention and that "the Democratic Party can always be relied upon to play the fool at a critical time." The struggle for the Vice-Presidential nomination broke off in the middle, for nobody was interested in anything but the Parker telegram—which perhaps should here be given in full as follows:

"Hon. W. F. Sheehan, Hotel Jefferson, St. Louis: 'I regard the gold standard as firmly and irrevocably established, and shall act accordingly if the action of the Convention of to-day shall be ratified by the people. As the platform is silent on the subject, my view should be made known to the Convention, and if it is proved to be unsatisfactory to the majority, I request you to decline the nomination for me at once so a candidate may be nominated before adjournment.'

"(Signed), A. B. PARKER."

After all kinds of speeches and all kinds of motions, the Convention by a vote of 774 to 191 finally directed the chairman to send the following telegram to Judge Parker:

"The platform adopted by this Convention is silent on the question of the monetary standard, because it is not regarded by us as a possible issue in this campaign, and only campaign issues were mentioned in the platform. Therefore there is nothing in the views expressed by you in the telegram just received which would preclude a man entertaining them from accepting a nomination on said platform."

By this time midnight had past, the Sabbath was upon the Convention, and still no Vice-President had been named. Williams, of Illinois, Turner, of Washington, Henry G. Davis, of West Virginia, and Harris, of Kansas, were before the Convention, but the Parker forces supported Davis, and he received a bare two-thirds on the first ballot. Davis, like Parker, is a self-made man, and has risen from railroad brakeman to railroad President. But he is not a man of Presidential calibre, and his age alone—81 years—would prevent his performing the duties of the office. The Democratic Party must begin to do as the Republicans have done these last two campaigns—force some strong man to take the Vice-Presidency against his wishes if no man of Presidential size volunteers for the place. The Convention adjourned at 1.31 Sunday morning.

GO TO THE FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

We again urge every Progressive Farmer reader interested in progress and improvement and who can possibly reach one of the Farmers' Institutes planned for this summer, to attend and take along with him some less progressive neighbor. Maybe it will awaken him to the importance of studying his occupation and adopting more profitable and rational methods. The Institutes already announced, it will be remembered, are as follows:

July 16.—Pittsboro, Chatham County.
July 18.—Carthage, Moore.
July 19.—Troy, Montgomery.
July 20.—Asheboro, Randolph.
July 21.—Concord, Cabarrus.
July 22.—Shelby, Cleveland.
July 23.—Rutherfordton, Rutherford.
July 25.—Marion, McDowell.
July 26.—Morganton, Burke.
July 27.—Granite Falls, Caldwell.
July 28.—Dixie, Mecklenburg.
July 29.—Hopewell, Mecklenburg.
July 27 and 28.—Monroe, Union.

We were greatly astonished two or three weeks ago to learn that in some sections there is a not inconsiderable number of farmers who will not attend the Institutes conducted by our Department of Agriculture authorities because of a belief that they are in the interest of politics. We should be ashamed to think that any Progressive Farmer reader is so narrow and ignorant as this would indicate, but it may be well enough to say in passing that the Institute conductors will have nothing in the world to say or do about politics, and that no local speaker will be allowed to mention politics if the Agricultural Department speakers can help it—and they usually can. The Institutes are solely in the interest of better farming methods and any farmer who stays away cheats himself.

It may also be proper to say just here that The Progressive Farmer's traveling agent, Rev. W. J. Crowson, will attend these Institutes and will receive subscriptions and renewals to The Progressive Farmer. Carry him your renewal and also a batch of new subscriptions from your neighborhood.

CONDITION OF COTTON 4 POINTS ABOVE TEN YEAR AVERAGE.

The monthly report of the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Agriculture issued last week shows the average condition of cotton on June 25th to have been 88 as compared with 83 on May 26, 1904; 77.1 on June 25, 1903; 84.7 at the corresponding date in 1902, and a ten-year average of 84.8.

The following table shows the condition by States on June 25, last, on May 26 last, and the ten-year average, respectively:

	May.	June.	10-yr.
Texas	89	84	84
Georgia	85	78	83
Alabama	85	80	84
Mississippi	89	85	85
South Carolina	88	81	85
Arkansas	90	84	88
Louisiana	90	86	86
North Carolina	90	84	86
Tennessee	89	85	87
Indian Territory	87	90	88
Oklahoma	92	93	89
Florida	92	88	86
Virginia	87	82	88
Missouri	89	82	86

Commenting on this report and the fact that many cotton experts are now figuring on a 12,000,000 bale crop from the 32,000,000 acres planted, the New York Evening Post says: "Such a crop as this would instantly put an end to the 'cotton famine' here and abroad, and would once more place supplies on a basis where the spinning trade could make its plans with confidence. But of course, there can be no assurance that weather conditions during the months of July and August will be as favorable for the proper growth and

development of the plants as during the past month. After these trying months have been passed, there would still remain the question of an early or late frost before the safety of the crop be assured, and the vexed question of the boll-weevil still remains for Texas to master. It was as late as September, last year, that 'cotton condition' fell from 81.2 to 65.1."

The Progressive Farmer Adopted as the Official Organ of the R. F. D. Mail Carriers.

Red Springs, N. C., July 6, 1904.

Manager and Editors The Progressive Farmer, Raleigh, N. C.

Gentlemen:—At a meeting of the R. F. D. Carriers of North Carolina, held in the city of Greensboro, July 4th, The Progressive Farmer was, by a unanimous vote, adopted as the official organ of the Rural Letter Carriers Association of this State. I take great pleasure in informing you of the fact. I feel sure there is no other paper published in North Carolina that has so warm a place in the carriers' hearts as yours. By your untiring efforts you have done much to benefit the carriers in many ways, and not only this, but I am confident that there is not another weekly publication in the State that can compete with yours in rural circulation.

Should you decide that you can publish our communications, I am confident that your subscription list will immediately advance among the carriers. Would be glad to hear from you at your convenience, and would also be glad to send you a complete report of our recent meeting.

With best wishes to each of you, I am,

Truly yours,

C. B. CAMPBELLE,
Secretary N. C. R. L. C. A.

Raleigh, N. C., July 8, 1904.

Mr. C. B. Campbell, Sec. N. C. R. L. C. A., Red Springs, N. C.

My dear Sir:—Your letter of July 6th announcing the action of your Association in making The Progressive Farmer its official organ, has just come to hand, and I hasten to express—on behalf of my co-laborers and myself—our appreciation of this recognition of The Progressive Farmer's earnest efforts in behalf of the rural mail delivery service and the rural mail carriers. We are proud of the fact that our paper was the pioneer advocate of rural mail delivery in North Carolina, waging in 1900, 1901, etc., an aggressive campaign in its behalf and urging farmers to petition for routes, months before other publications became interested in the movement, and while some were actually opposing it as a Federal scheme to give jobs to office-seekers! The Progressive Farmer will continue to work just as earnestly as heretofore in behalf of the service and the carriers. We shall be glad to publish all official communications of the Association and have the individual members discuss their problems in our columns.

Again thanking your Association for this expression of confidence, I am,

Sincerely yours,

CLARENCE H. POE.

Editor and Manager.

He Does Nothing But Clever Work.

That letter by John Charles McNeill in The Progressive Farmer this week on swimming, is one of the cleverest pieces of writing we have seen in a long while, and is a splendid antithesis of this July weather.—Raleigh Post, July 7th.

It was indeed one of the brightest things that has appeared in print in North Carolina in many a moon. The Post took out of our mouths the words we intended to utter.—Charlotte Observer, July 9th.

We pay a liberal commission to agents—men or women, boys or girls—who get new subscribers for The Progressive Farmer. Write for terms.